

At the beginning of the winter season (usually between Halloween and November 15<sup>th</sup>), remove the funnel and inner measuring tube (plastic or metal) from the SRG eight-inch rain gauge.

Set out your snowboard and snow stakes. Place the boards and stakes in your yard which is sheltered from the wind, not prone to drifting. After a few years of taking measurements, you will become more familiar with the best places to locate these.

**Snowfall:** Amount of new snow that accumulated on your deck, railing, picnic table or snowboard since the last time you measured (24 hrs ago).

**Snowfall is measured to the nearest tenth of an inch (example...0.1 or 2.3 or 8.6).**

After measuring and recording the snowfall, clear the snow from the measuring surface (example picnic table, snow board, railing).

Snowfall Special cases:

- Snow falls and accumulates on the snowboard, but then melts. In this case, the snowfall is the greatest depth of snow observed on the board before it begins to melt.
- Snow falls and melts continuously on the board. In this case report a TRACE of snowfall.
- Snow has blown or drifted onto or off the snowboard. In this case, take several measurements from around the yard where the snow has not drifted, being careful only to measure new snow. Take an average of the various measurements to arrive at a total.
- Sleet counts towards total snowfall, freezing rain accumulation does not.

**Water Equivalent of your Snowfall :** Water equivalent of the snow that fell into the rain gauge during the past 24 hrs.

Melt the snow which fell into the can [outer shell, (by bringing the rain gauge inside your home)].

When melted, pour the liquid into the inner plastic measuring tube and measure the amount to the nearest .01 inch (use NWS provided measuring stick, just as you use for measuring rainfall).

Do not measure the melted precipitation directly in the larger outer cylinder.

If you added warm water to melt the snow, make sure you accurately measure the amount of warm water added before pouring it into the gauge. Then, when you take your liquid measurement, subtract the amount of warm water added from the total liquid measurement, to get your final liquid water equivalent of the snowfall.

**Measuring Snow Depth or snow pack:** Total depth of snow on the ground ( includes both new snow and old snow).

**Snow depth is measured to the nearest inch (for example 1in or 5in or 11in).**

Measure total snow depth at several locations in your yard which have not drifted.

Take an average of these measurements to arrive at the snow depth.

Sometimes old snow can be very hard and crusty underneath the new snow. Be sure your snow stick punches all the way thru the snow and down to the underlying ground.

**Snow Core (water equivalent of total Snow pack (snow depth) :** Water equivalent of the total snow on the ground, which has accumulating all winter season.

This figure indicates how much liquid is in the snow pack. This amount becomes important during late winter and early spring, with respect to snow melt and flooding.

Find a location in your yard which is representative of the snow depth.

Using the inner smaller tube of your 8 inch rain gauge, cut thru the snow all the way to the ground.

Melt the contents of the tube ( by bringing the rain gauge inside your home).

When melted, measure the amount to the nearest tenth of an inch 0.1 inch (use NWS provided measuring stick) just as you use for measuring rainfall.

If you added warm water to the gauge to melt the snow, make sure you accurately measure the amount of warm water added before pouring it into the gauge. Then, when you take your liquid measurement, subtract the amount of warm water added from the total liquid measurement, to get your final liquid water equivalent of the snowfall.